

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00670 121503Z

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7299

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EL.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, US

SUBJECT: FONMIN AGUSTSSON DISCUSSES PLANS FOR US VISIT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON TOLD LOCAL PRESS MAY 11 THAT HE PLANS OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON DURING LATE JUNE. AGUSTSSON WAS INTERVIEWED IN LONDON, WHERE HE SAID HE DISCUSSED WASHINGTON TRIP WITH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY VANCE.

2. ACCORDING TO PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN, AGUSTSSON SAID VISIT WOULD BE AT PRESIDENT'S INVITATION AND THAT HE WOULD MEET BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WHILE IN US. THJODVILJINN ADDED THAT TOPIC OF TALKS WOULD BE ICELAND-US RELATIONS AND US-MANNED DEFENSE FORCE HERE IN PARTICULAR. STATE RADIO AND TELEVISION CITED FONMIN AS SAYING THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS US-ICELAND DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON, BUT THAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN DEFINITELY SET.

3. MASS-CIRCULATION MORGUNBLADID (INDEPENDENCE PARTY), IN FRONT PAGE ARTICLE TODAY, SAID AGUSTSSON AND SECRETARY VANCE HAD DECIDED WASHINGTON VISIT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE DURING LAST WEEK IN JUNE. AGUSTSSON TOLD PAPER THAT HE AND SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN LONDON "CONTINUATION OF (US-ICELAND) DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN IT." MORGUNBLADID ALSO REPORTED THAT AGUSTSSON HAD MET BRIEFLY WITH PRESIDENT IN LONDON AND HAD FOUND HIM WELL INFORMED ON MATTERS RELATED TO ICELAND. PAPER DID NOT MENTION ANY PLANS FOR AGUSTSSON TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST DETAILS OF

FONMIN'S REPORTED CONVERSATIONS.

BLAKE

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Message Attributes

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